

Exhibit No. 3Date 4-6-11**Honorable Chairman Lewis, Honorable members of the Finance and Claims Committee.** HB 502

For the record my name is Betty L Babcock. I am here today on behalf of the Board of the Montana Capitol Restoration Foundation and their President, Norma Jean Kelly who had to be out of town.

Recently one of your colleagues, Representative Taylor, tripped and fell on the stairs of the Grand Staircase, and was badly hurt. I have been told this has happened to others as well. We feel this danger must be eliminated if at all possible.

You have before you HB502 asking that you fabricate and install historically appropriate handrails and that the bill would provide for the acceptance of donations for this purpose. It would also be possible for making some money available from an internal service fund.

The foundation is an organization that has been involved with the restoration of our historic and beautiful Capitol since 1996. It is still a viable organization and will continue to be for it is necessary for the citizens of Montana to always remember that historic buildings must not be forgotten and most always need some special attention. The MCR Foundation can still accept private donations, which are tax deductible. At the present time we sell beautiful collectable ornaments made by the same company that makes them for fund-raising at the White House in Washington DC. I realize that selling ornaments would not pay for railings on two staircases but every little bit helps and it could be a way to start. We as a board want the Capitol to remain beautiful but also safe for the many visitors that come here.

I am here to ask you to please vote in favor of HB 502. Yes it sounds like a lot of money and it is but it is for an historic railing up two staircases. The Foundation has authorized an expenditure of \$25,000 to kick off a fund raising effort from the private sector for the railings. I'm not sure that I am at liberty to say who but I have heard about another \$2,000.00 contribution. We have found that money is more easily raised if it is for a specific project.

Please vote yes on HB502 for we don't want to see any more accidents happen. I promise I won't come back tomorrow to ask for anything else.

Thank you for your support of this bill and for all that you are doing for the state of Montana.

Betty Babcock  
Helena, MT